

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Jesus, disciples visit Coast for Easter

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Jesus is pondering the unfolding events of His last days. Nathaniel is deeply concerned whether it is he who will betray Jesus. Judas is characteristically sarcastic and self-centered. Peter, of course, is his usual, impulsive self. The other disciples are equally unsettled.

In case you missed them, they were all in Gulfport last week. They show up regularly every couple of years at Grace Memorial Church for The Living Last Supper, a stunningly accurate visual portrayal of Da Vinci's famous painting of The Last Supper.

In the darkness of the church's sanctuary, a spotlight rises slowly on Jesus and then each disciple, frozen in the exact position of the men in Da Vinci's painting. After every fourth disciple's monologue, the lights go down, and the church's Sanctuary Choir presents Easter-themed music from the balcony.

"This was my first time as pastor of Grace Memorial to see The Living Last Supper," said Charlie Ray III, who has been pastor since December 2007. "It's a moving experience to see a visual representation of the last week of Jesus' life."



IN CHARACTER — Members of Grace Memorial Church in Gulfport stage The Living Last Supper, a dramatic representation of Da Vinci's famous painting of The Last Supper. Each disciple, portrayed by a member of the church, presents a monologue in the character of that particular disciple, interspersed between disciples with music by the church's Sanctuary Choir. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Ray said the church emphasizes neighborhood outreach in the weeks leading up to the two presentations of The Living Last Supper — on the evening of Good Friday and then again on Resurrection Sunday night.

"We try to focus on the community during this time. We're following up on cards that people filled out wanting to know more about the church. We had several rededications this year as a result of The Living Last Supper," he said.

Anthony Turner, the church's minister of music and senior adults, said the production takes several months to put together and involves around 125 people, including choir members, makeup specialists, seamstresses — the painting's skin tones, hair, and clothing are portrayed as faithfully as possible — and the construction crews that assemble the set and background.

"It's not nearly as hard to produce, now that we've done it several times," Turner said. The church first produced The Living Last Supper in 2002, then repeated it in 2003 before going on the every-other-year cycle.

Eight of the original 13 cast members from the 2002 production are still playing their roles, he added.

Turner said the idea for The Living Last Supper is not original with Grace Memorial Church, but the church's production has many unique elements. "We compiled the script from several different sources to write the monologues," he said. A fresh collection of Easter-themed music is prepared for each biennial event.

Recruitment for the production starts in the fall of the year before, Turner said, with monologue practice beginning after Christmas. During that time, Turner encourages each actor to look deeply into his character. "Rehearsals begin in February," he said.

The production runs for over an hour. "It takes conditioning for the characters to hold the positions in the painting for the length of the program, so we have to work on that, too," Turner pointed out.

"They can flex a little while the lights are down and the choir is singing, but they basically have to hold their positions until it's over."

"It's a very fulfilling experience for everyone who gets involved. I don't know of another production out there that is exactly like this one," he said.

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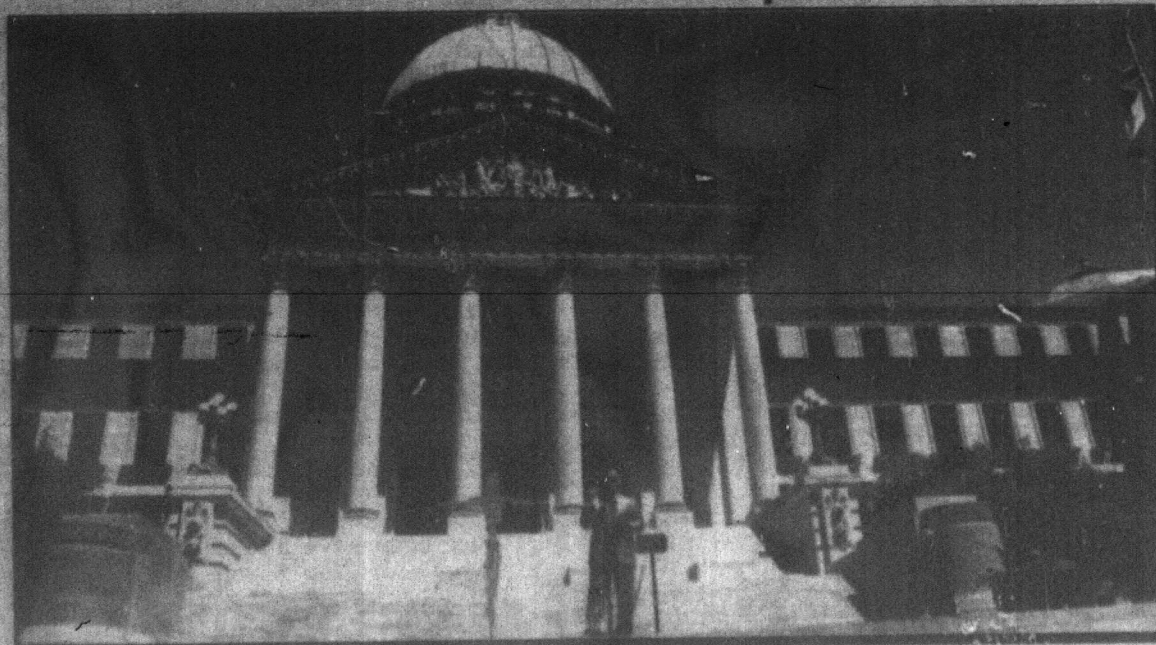
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Messenger cards now available

Messenger cards for the 2009 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 23-24 in Louisville, Ky., are now available. Churches planning to send messengers can register online at www.sbc.net. Messenger cards can also be requested by calling Brenda Now at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, (601) 292-3203 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bnow@mbcb.org. Please note that messenger cards are mailed only by church request.

Easter at the Capitol



Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, delivers the message for Easter at the Capitol, a series of noonday Holy Week gatherings on the south steps of the New Capitol in downtown Jackson. The open-air events, sponsored each day by MBCB, also featured Easter-themed music and were open to the public. The Lord's Supper was observed during the Thursday gathering. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Marcus Bowers, Brandon
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BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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A complete lack of conscience

America has undergone many radical changes since the installment of Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States — and that's just in the first three months of his administration. Perhaps some of the changes have been good for the country, perhaps not. Americans seem to be divided on that question (Evangelical Christians less so).

One of the most unsettling and downright bizarre changes the new President is seeking is the overturning of the so-called conscience rights of medical professionals to decline to be involved in any procedure or regimen that they may personally deem unethical or immoral. Those conscience rights, propagated during the George W. Bush administration, have been mostly used to allow nurses, medical students, and physicians to opt out of participation in abortions.

Likewise, pharmacists were protected if they chose not to fill prescriptions for RU-486/mifepristone, which poisons and expels developing babies, and Plan B, the euphemistic name for a drug regimen that prevents a developing human from attaching to the nourishing walls of a mother's womb.

For some reason, the Obama administration and Congress are determined to mow down those conscience rights at the fastest possible speed.

The Democrat-controlled U.S. Senate recently voted down an amendment to the president's federal budget proposal that would have protected those conscience rights. Tom Coburn, a Republican senator and physician from Oklahoma who still practices medicine in his home state, offered the amendment.

Both Mississippi senators, Republicans Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, voted in favor of the Coburn amendment.

In total, 51 Democrats voted no on the

"FOR GOD IS NOT SO UNJUST AS TO FORGET YOUR WORK, AND THE LOVE WHICH YOU HAVE SHOWN TOWARD HIS NAME..."



Coburn amendment, while three voted in favor and two did not vote. On the Republican side, 38 senators voted for the amendment and three voted against it. Two independents also voted no.

With that vote, the U.S. Congress effectively went on record as being in favor of denying medical professionals their right to choose not to be involved in objectionable procedures and regimens — and you thought our politicians were in favor of "choice."

"Like many pro-life doctors, I would go to jail before being forced to perform procedures, such as abortion, that violate my deepest held convictions," Coburn said.

"Liberty of conscience is a freedom written into the very fabric of the American experience, not to mention into the virtues

of a physician," C. Ben Mitchell, a consultant for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, told Baptist Press.

"To coerce a physician by law to take another human life by abortion, euthanasia, or at any time in between is a violation of everything sacred in medicine. Medicine is not a consumer good, and physicians are not body plumbers," Mitchell told Baptist Press. "They are professionals whose consciences have been unfettered since the Hippocratic Oath of more than 2,000 years ago."

"If the Obama administration thinks they can strip physicians of their consciences without destroying the profession, they are grievously mistaken."

Therein lies the practical danger of the move to take away these conscience rights. The best and brightest students who have a conscience will be forced to find another career field. They simply won't want to be doctors if they are compelled to butcher human beings in the womb, or put old people to sleep like dogs. They'll go into

other fields of endeavor and they'll be successful, but they won't be doctors.

Combined with their drive for compulsory, universal health care, our politicians are on the verge of ruining the greatest medical system in the world.

The spiritual consequences will be even worse. For 36 years since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the country for all nine months of fetal development, we have indicated to our young people that they are worth nothing to us. We are now going to force medical professionals to reinforce that message even stronger.

How can the nation survive this obsessive, ceaseless promotion of such savagery against its most defenseless citizens?

Simply put, we can't.

Warren seemingly backtracks on past support for Prop 8

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Ca., has been accused in Internet reports of backing off on his support for last fall's California marriage amendment which was passed by the state's voters and states that marriage can only be between one man and one woman.

One report, published April 8, declared Warren apologized to homosexual friends for his support of the amendment, popularly known as Prop 8, and said he now claims he never endorsed the ballot measure, when in fact he did.

During an April 6 interview on CNN's Larry King Live talk show, Warren said, "During the whole Proposition 8 thing, I never once went to a meeting, never once issued a statement, never — never once even gave an endorsement in the two years Prop 8 was going."

One of Warren's critics, however, produced a transcript of remarks they say Warren made to his congregation two weeks before the vote on Prop 8. That transcript quotes Warren as saying, "Now let me say this really clearly: we support Proposition 8 — and if you believe what the Bible says

about marriage, you need to support Proposition 8. I never support a candidate, but on moral issues I come out very clear."

Warren also told King he was not "an anti-gay or anti-gay marriage activist." When King then asked whether that meant Warren would not criticize or comment on the recent Iowa court decision to permit homosexual marriage, Warren said, "That's not even my agenda."

One Warren critic said that amounted to Warren "abdication his biblical role as pastor."

The articles critical of Warren failed to mention that later in the interview he told King he drew a distinction between endorsing the marriage amendment to his congregation and publicly campaigning for the ballot initiative.

When King asked if Warren encouraged his congregation to vote for Prop 8, Warren replied, "Yes, I just never campaigned."

Responding to critics' charges that he apologized to homosexual friends for his support of the amendment, Warren said in the interview that he apologized to homosexual acquaintances because his support for Prop 8 resulted in homosexual activists saying he equated homosexual marriage with pedophilia and incest.

"There were a number of things that were put out. I wrote to all my gay friends — the leaders that I knew — and actually apologized to them," Warren said. "I was asked a question that made it sound like I equated gay marriage with pedophilia or incest, which I absolutely do not believe, and I actually announced that. All of the criticism came from people that didn't know me."

Baptist Press submitted the following questions to Warren's public relations firm but had not received a response by publication deadline:

• Rick Warren said to Larry King: "There were a number of things that were put out. I wrote to all my gay friends — the leaders that I knew — and actually apologized to them." What specifically was it that was "put out"? What was he apologizing for?

• Rick Warren said to Larry King: "During the whole Proposition 8 thing, I never once went to a meeting, never once issued a statement, never — never once even gave an endorsement in the two years Prop 8 was going." Did he misspeak about not endorsing Prop 8, given the transcript of comments published in which he appears to endorse Prop 8? What was the context in which those comments were made?

Warren

Researcher dismisses embryonic stem cells

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Supporters of alternatives to embryonic stem cell research found a surprising ally recently when medical doctor Mehmet Oz, during an appearance on the Oprah television program, played down embryonic research and trumpeted an ethical method.

"The stem cell debate is dead, and I'll tell you why," he told host Oprah Winfrey, guest Michael J. Fox, and a nationwide audience.

"Dr. Oz," the director of the cardiovascular institute at Columbia University Medical Center, told Winfrey and Fox that embryonic stem cell research is fraught with practical problems. Although he didn't name the procedure, he said he favored — and he described in detail — an alternative that researchers refer to as induced pluripotent stem cell research (iPS), which he thinks will produce cures.

Neither embryonic stem cell research nor iPS research has produced any cures. Only iPS research, though, has support from both sides of the debate.

"The problem with embryonic stem cells is that embryonic stem cells come from embryos — like all of us were made from embryos — and those cells can become any cell in the body," Oz said on the show, which was first broadcast March 31, "but it's very hard to control them, and so they can become cancer."

In induced pluripotent stem cell research, researchers take a person's own skin cell and reprogram it into embryonic-like stem cells. Human iPS stem cells were first developed in 2007, and major advances have since been made. Embryos are never used in the process.

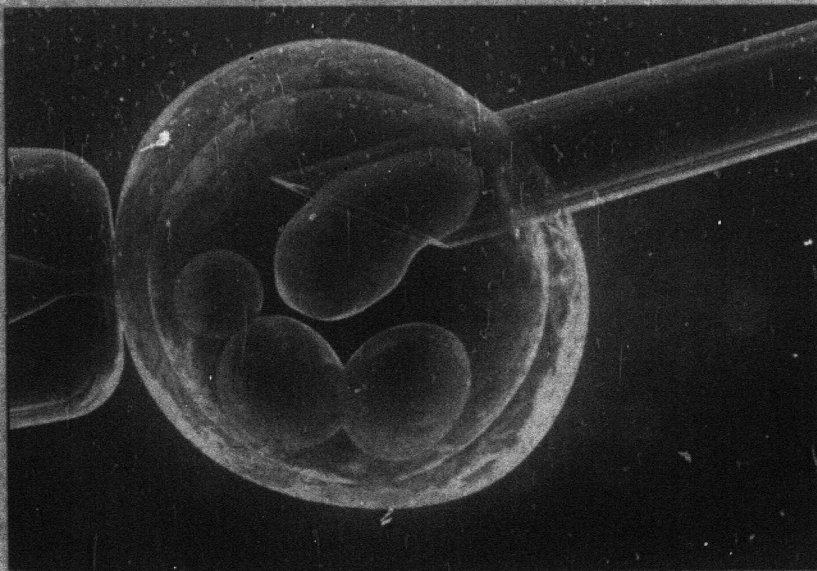
Significantly, Oz wasn't making his argument from an ethical perspective but from a practical one. Fox, who has Parkinson's disease and was sitting beside Oz, was a major critic of President Bush's stem cell policy, which prohibited federal funds being used on research that destroys embryos.

Bush and other pro-lifers favored alternatives, such as the iPS method championed by Oz.

Fox, in fact, during his appearance on the show criticized the "eight years" where "no forward progress" was made but Oz, without criticizing Fox, said Fox's best hope for a cure was not in embryonic research.

"In the last year, we've made 10 years of advancement" [in iPS research], Oz said. "Think about that. We went places we never thought we would go."

"Here's what the deal is," he said, describing the iPS procedure to Fox, "I can take a little bit of your skin, take



those cells, get them to go back in time so they're like they were when you were first made, and then they will start to make that dopamine, and I think those cells, because they won't be as prone to cancer — and because they're your genes — will be the ones that are ultimately used to cure Parkinson's, and no one can tell how fast we can do this but I've talked to a lot of experts in this field, and I think we're single-digit years away from making a big impact in lives of Parkinson's disease [patients] but also diabetics, heart attack victims."

"Single digits away?" Oprah asked.

"Single-digit years," Oz repeated. "So, in other words, it could be eight, nine years... but it's going to be in our lifetime, and that's exciting, I think, to all of us in medicine."

One major form of stem cell research — adult stem cell research — was not discussed. Adult stem cells are found throughout the human body and pose no ethical concerns.

Human trials using adult stem cells have produced therapies for at least 73 ailments in human beings, according to Do No Harm, a coalition promoting ethics in research.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Hunt names resolutions committee for annual meeting

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Johnny Hunt has named the members of the Resolutions Committee who will serve during the June 23-24 SBC annual meeting in Louisville, Ky.

No Mississippi Baptists were named to the committee.

Hunt, pastor of the Atlanta-area First Church in Woodstock, appointed the committee in keeping with the provision in SBC Bylaw 20 that its members be named 75 days prior to the start of the annual meeting.

Hunt named Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., as committee chairman. The other committee members, in alphabetical order, are:

- Michael Cloer, pastor of Englewood Church in Rocky Mount, N.C.

- Al Gilbert, pastor of Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

- Jerry Johnson, vice president of academic development at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

- Martha Lawley, an author and speaker and member of First Southern Church in Worland, Wyo.

- Jeff Moore, senior pastor of First Church in Altus, Ok.

- Shane Russell, pastor of Shoal Creek Church in Deatsville, Al.

- Kevin Smith, assistant professor of church history at Southern Seminary and pastor of Watson Memorial Church in Louisville, Ky.

- Royce Sweatman, director of missions for North Arkansas Association in Harrison, Ar.

- Don Wilton, pastor of First Church in Spartanburg, S.C.

The committee's composition, according to Bylaw 20, must include at least two members who served the previous year, with Moore and Smith meeting this requirement. Bylaw 20 also stipulates that the committee include at least three SBC Executive Committee members. This year they are Gilbert, Lawley, and Sweatman.

The procedure for submitting resolutions is as follows according to Bylaw 20:

- Proposed resolutions may be submitted as early as April 15 but no later than 15 days prior to the SBC annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider submissions. Resolutions may no

longer be submitted during the annual meeting.

- Proposed resolutions must be accompanied by a letter from a church qualified to send a messenger to the SBC annual meeting certifying that the individual submitting the resolution is a member in good standing.

- Proposed resolutions preferably should be submitted by e-mail or mailed to the Resolutions Committee in care of the SBC Executive Committee. The drafts must be typewritten, titled, dated and include complete contact

information for the person and his or her church.

- No person will be allowed to submit more than three resolutions per year.

- If a properly submitted resolution is not forwarded by the Resolutions Committee to the SBC annual meeting, a two-thirds vote of messengers would be required to bring the proposed resolution to the convention floor.

All resolutions adopted by the SBC can be searched and read on the Web at <http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/AMResSearch.asp>.

Looking back

10 years ago

William Carey College rededicates a historic home on the school campus as the new Baptist Student Union Center Apr. 13. The home was built in 1926 at the cost of \$16,783 and was known as the Model Home, housing the school's Home Economics Department.

20 years ago

Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Radio and Television Commission since 1980, resigns to join a group seeking to purchase the ACTS network. RTVC trustees elect executive vice-president Richard T. McCartney as interim chief executive officer.

50 years ago

The Southern Baptist Executive Committee elects W.C. Fields, editor of The Baptist Record, as secretary of its public relations service.



Bibliocipher

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FZYIZ VAGMHN FYVMFQ
ZMHQAQ, PKV TMN P
LNAOAKIA UPWA SMKE
LNPCANQ: OZAQA QZPSS
NAIAYGA ENAPOAN
VPUKPOYMK.
UPNW OFASGA: TMNOC

Clue: U = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six: Nine

EASTER PLUS ONE

In the fast-paced world in which we live, it may seem as though Easter was a long, long time ago. Because of our constant barrage of 24/7 news, yesterday can seem like last year's event. However, before you go too much further past Easter, I want to encourage you to pause and think about *Easter Plus One*.

First, think about *Easter Plus One Week*. The week following the resurrection, Jesus began a series of appearances to His disciples and friends that would both excite their hearts and affirm their allegiance to Him. First Corinthians 15 tells of an ongoing series of appearances that actually extended over a week but included a gathering of over 500 people on one occasion. Can you imagine what that must have been like to have seen the crucifixion of Jesus and to have gone through those troubling silent days of Him being in the tomb and for Him to come where you are, speak to you, invite you to touch Him, to encourage you, and to challenge you to continue to follow Him?

The week following Easter filled the disciples' lives with unending joy and unshakable faith. They realized, as we must, that if Jesus can overcome death, can triumph over the grave, and can be victorious over sin and its curse, then He can handle anything that they or we might ever face. Just think about all of the things that have swirled around them that are not unlike the events that are around us.

There was deception and treachery that led to Jesus' death. There was denial and failure from the best of His followers. There was cruelty, disrespect, and hatred from soldiers as well as onlookers. There was fear, uncertainty, and



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

sheer panic that gripped the lives of the disciples. Jesus rose again and rose above all of those things. Jesus is alive! *Easter Plus One Week* lifts our spirits, moves our hearts, and renews our commitments.

Secondly, think about *Easter Plus One Witness*. While we could look at several, let's just focus on Simon Peter. Before Jesus' death, Simon Peter was the best-known denier in the Bible. No doubt, his denials broke the heart of Jesus but after he had made his third denial and the rooster crowed, Peter's heart was broken, too. The Scripture says, "That he went out and wept bitterly" (Matt. 26:75). I wonder where he went. We are not told specifically. I am sure that it was away from other folks and all alone in his failure that he went out and wept bitterly.

That is not where the story ends. No, it did not end there for him and it does not end there for many of us. Our stumblings, our failures, and our faults are chronicled by many people. God still has plans for us to be used in His kingdom work. For Simon Peter, he would become the preacher of the day at Pentecost. The great ingathering of souls who would come to know Jesus would take place on that day. He would stand and proclaim the Good News of the living Christ with boldness and clarity from a freed and forgiven heart to witness for Jesus. What a glorious moment, an Easter moment, an *Easter*

Plus One Witness that would make a difference in his world.

That can be true for you also. How long has it been since you have personally shared your faith and your experience of knowing Jesus with anyone? Do not leave your relationship with the living Christ stuck in an event of last week. Witness for Him now. You may not stand and preach before thousands but there is someone who needs to see in you the difference that Jesus makes and to hear from you His love and grace extended to them.

One final consideration as you look at *Easter Plus One Word*. One word that seems to

burst forth from the Easter story is *go*. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 says, "Go!" Many of you are probably aware that the word *go* translated from the Greek would be interpreted "as you are going." That is not bad because we are always on the *go*. The other side of this command of Jesus is that sometimes we need to purposefully, intentionally, and pointedly go out of our way to go to someone, to reach out to them, to reach down to them, to reach up to them, to reach their hearts, to go and meet them where they are. We expect them to come where we are rather than us going where they are. They are under no obligation to come to us, but we are under divine command to go to them. Add one word to your Easter vocabulary, *Easter Plus One Word - Go!* God bless you as you do what Jesus has commissioned you to do.

The author can be contacted at
jfutral@mbcb.org

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Will President's charitable giving proposals kill gifts?

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports)—President Barack Obama's proposal to reduce the tax deductions that wealthy Americans can claim for their charitable donations should not affect Southern Baptist churches, according to Warren Peek, president of the Southern Baptist Foundation in Nashville.

A pair of Obama critics disagree. "People give for three reasons. They give out of guilt, obligation, and as a cheerful giver," Peek told Baptist Press. "As Christians, we're supposed to be that cheerful giver and give from our hearts. If that's the case in our churches, then I don't see the giving to churches going down."

Under Obama's budget proposal, the tax deduction for those with incomes over \$250,000 would be reduced from 35 cents for each dollar donated to 28 cents, returning the rate to where it was during the Reagan administration. The revenue generated from the reduction would help fund the health-care overhaul the president has promised.

The proposal was stricken from the Senate's version of the budget but could be re-inserted during Senate-House negotiations.

Some conservatives, including commentator Dick Morris, have noted that the one or two percent of Americans who would be affected by the reduction are the same people who give almost half of all donations to charity.

"Churches will be hit most hard," Morris wrote in a column. "They account for the largest share of charitable donations, but universities, disease research, hospitals, soup kitchens, and cultural institutions will also be hit hard. So will international relief efforts that funnel aid abroad through churches or directly."

"It is totally dishonest for Obama to pretend that his curtailment of these deductions won't hurt the poor," Morris wrote. "It will most directly impact them since most of the charities Obama is hurting focus on helping the impoverished."

Morris is probably best remembered as the architect of many of former U.S. President Bill Clinton's political and legislative victories.

Obama has said there is little evidence to support the fear that the reduction would have a significant impact on charitable giving, but the Center for Philanthropy at Indiana University has calculated that the highest-income households would decrease their giving by an estimated \$3.87 billion.

The head of a conservative national organization expressed concern about the Obama proposals.

"The impact of this plan is to starve churches and other nonprofits that actually help the poor and replace them with ineffective (and liberal) government programs," Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, wrote in a Washington Update e-mail April 2.

"It's an idea so fundamentally un-American that each of us should be raising our voices in opposition," said Perkins, who is no relation to William Perkins, editor of The Baptist Record.

In addition to funding health care, Obama said the reduction would help equalize the tax break for those donating to charity. "When I give \$100, I'd get the same amount of deduction as when some — a bus driver who's making \$50,000 a year or \$40,000 a year — give that same \$100," the president said of his proposal.

Peek said churches that rely on the support of tithing believers should not fear the proposed policy because such people understand the principle of stewardship that God owns everything and they are simply giving back a portion — typically 10% — of the money they've been given.

"When it comes to actual gifts and donations, I think people are still going to support causes that they believe in," Peek said.

Obama's tax proposal could actually help promote estate planning, which Peek said could mean more church people will turn to the Southern Baptist Foundation and state Baptist foundations to help them leave more money to Baptist causes when they die.

"When someone passes away, their money goes into three buckets. It goes

into a family bucket, it goes into a charity bucket and then there's a large bucket called the government that the money goes into," Peek said, referring to the estate tax.

"With the tax plan that Obama is instituting, more money is going to go into that government bucket," he said. "The way to avoid that is to do planned giving for your estate. What would happen is more money would go to charity, more money would go to your family, and less money would go to the government."

"For the wealthy, it means they're going to have to do more estate planning so they can leave more money to charities."

Peek also said Obama's proposal to reduce the tax break for wealthy Americans probably won't impact Southern Baptist seminaries and colleges as much as the economic downturn.

Most of those institutions have endowments that help fund their operations, he said, and because investment returns have been negative since last fall, the schools have had to cut programs and staff.

"I think the economy has affected giving more than this tax break. Most

colleges and universities and seminaries and churches, especially the larger ones, might get one gift a year for over \$100,000," Peek said.

Obama's tax proposal, though, surely will affect charitable giving from those who don't subscribe to the principle of tithing and simply want a tax break, Peek said.

"I do think it will affect those people, but I'm hoping in our Baptist churches that the principles of stewardship are being taught and that most people give because they want to freely give and they understand that God owns it all," Peek said.

For more information on the Southern Baptist Foundation, write to 901 Commerce Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37203. Telephone: (615) 254-8823 or toll-free (800) 245-8183. E-mail: Web site: www.sbfnd.org.

For information on the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, contact Daniel Hall, executive director, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3210 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 210. E-mail: dhall@mbcb.org. Web site: www.msbbaptistfoundation.org.



NOBTS prof, wife seriously injured in pedestrian/vehicle accident

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) professor Jimmy Dukes and his wife Retia were struck by a vehicle April 4 as they crossed the street from the seminary's main campus in New Orleans to the school's Providence Guest House. Both received multiple injuries.

The Dukeses were transported to separate hospitals — he to Tulane Hospital and she to University Hospital. He later was moved to University Hospital as well.

Dukes received multiple fractures and injuries: two broken legs, a broken arm, a cracked vertebra and a punctured lung. Retia Dukes experienced head trauma in the accident. Upon

arrival at the hospital, she underwent surgery for a brain hemorrhage. She remains in critical condition.

Jimmy Dukes has served as the director of theological education/distance learning for the Florida Baptist Convention since 2007. He was with his wife in New Orleans for an NOBTS extension center directors' meeting. He has worked in various roles at NOBTS since 1980, joining the faculty in 1984.

In an arrangement with the Florida Baptist Convention, he also serves as associate dean of the seminary's Florida extension centers, director of the seminary's Orlando hub, and professor of New Testament and Greek.

He holds master of divinity and doc-

tor of theology degrees from NOBTS.

"Dr. Jimmy Dukes is the greatest educational visionary I have ever known," NOBTS President Chuck Kelley told the Baptist Press. "He and his wife Retia have been valuable and important contributors to both the mission of NOBTS and the community of NOBTS families for many years."

"We are all asking God for their full recovery," Kelley said.

The Dukeses' two sons, Erik and Jason, arrived in New Orleans the day after the accident. Erik is a family practitioner in Booneville, Ms. Jason is pastor of Westpoint Fellowship Church in Windermere, Fl.

The accident happened at dusk

Saturday evening at 7:35. A vehicle traveling east on Gentilly Boulevard/Chef Menteur Highway struck the Dukeses as they crossed from the main campus to the seminary's guest housing across the street.

NOBTS campus police and witnesses contacted first responders immediately. Several New Orleans residents who were on the seminary campus to vote in an election that evening stopped to offer help as well.

The family is posting updates on the CaringBridge website. Updates are found in the journal section at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jimmyandretiadukes>. The site is free but requires registration to receive access.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Immanuel Church, Columbus



2. First Church, Poplarville

CORRECTION

An item in the Housetops section of the issue of April 9 listed an incorrect date for one of the It's a New Day Conferences. The correct dates are Thursday, May 21 at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton, and May 22 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. It was a typographical error. A corrected announcement appears below.

IT'S A NEW DAY.

National leaders from Crown Financial Ministries will hold two seminars to guide you in helping your church family become DEBT FREE.

Garaywa Camp and
Conference Center
Clinton

Thursday - May 21, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
\$20 per person
No charge for spouses

Central Hills
Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko

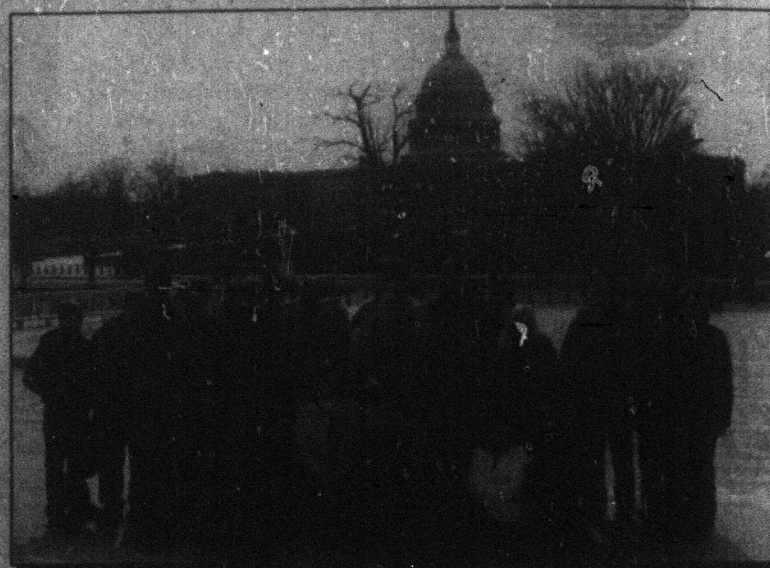
Friday - May 22, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
\$20 per person
No charge for spouses

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Stewardship Department will waive your registration fee if you call to register before May 11, 2009.

Call Susan Robinson at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 347, or locally at 601-292-0347
or Email her at srobinson@mbc.org



1. The Awana's of Immanuel Church, Columbus, recently held a Crazy Hat Night. Shown are the participants.
2. Children from First Church, Poplarville, participated in the Associational Drills at Central Church, McNeil. Shown, front row, are Jonathon Lewis, Camden Ray, and Canaan Ray; back row, Christian Raby, Micah Lewis, and Debbie Schilling.
3. Several students from Calvary Church, Hattiesburg, used their Mar. 12-19 spring break to be on mission in Washington, D.C., partnering with a local Salvation Army. Shown are the participants.
4. The Generations 2009 choir from Bovina Church, Vicksburg, ages 5 to 56, is giving concerts this spring. Shown are the participants.
5. The RA and GA departments of First Church, Holly Springs, presented a play, Truly This Was the Son of God Apr. 5. Shown are the participants.
6. Roxie Church, Roxie, recently burned the note on its parsonage. Shown are Keith Whitehead, Johnny Cummins, John Whitehead, Lavon Combs, and pastor Matt Armstrong.
7. Choctaw Association sponsored a Children's Worship Seminar Mar. 22, including information designed to help volunteers, pastors, and others present children's worship features. Leaders were Patsy Hawkins, French Camp Church, and Deanie Graves, Ackerman Church.
8. Bethel Church, Water Valley, is hosting a mission conference Apr. 25, 9 a.m. - noon, with Sherry Hagerhjelm, speaker and humorist and Shirley Berry, music. Registration, 8-9 a.m., or call (662) 675-8508 or 473-2436. \$10/individuals; \$15/couples.
9. Mt. Olivet Church, Lillian, will host the Meyers Family in concert Apr. 26, 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, followed by another concert.



3. Calvary Church, Hattiesburg



4. Bovina Church, Vicksburg



5. First Church, Holly Springs



6. Roxie Church, Roxie

Record

SPECIAL EDITION

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

The church that never forgot its promise

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Enterprise may be a sleepy little community in Clarke County, but Enterprise Church is anything but sleepy. Rather, it is a model of commitment to a cause greater than itself.

Richard Cothorn is pastor of Enterprise Church, which was established in 1847 and has a history of being faithful to support missions both through the Cooperative Program (CP) and local and associational work. It has been in its present location for many years, and its current sanctuary was built in 1947. Prior to that, the older sanctuary was built in 1909, and stained glass windows and pews from that era are still in use.

According to Cothorn, Taylor Wallace pastored the church for 26 years, from 1962 to 1988. "He had retired," said Cothorn, "but he was interim pastor at the church right before I came. The church had been working on a building project — a family life center — before I got there. The month before I began, Taylor led the church to vote to build the building, and started taking funds in 1996."

Work continued on the building during Cothorn's early years. "We were able to take the keys to the building in February of 1999. The building cost \$852,000, and we owed \$500,000 on it."

The church had financed the project with a seven-year balloon note. In the period from 1999-2001, any funds received over \$15,000 were placed on the principal and the note was paid off by the eighth year.

There were challenges, however. "Along the way, we weren't always able to put extra money on the principal," said Cothorn. "We had an economic downturn in Clarke County — some businesses closed, and it affected our church. We had been faithful to pay our missions offerings and projects, but when the downturn came, it became difficult. It happened all at once, and it wasn't something we could see coming."

Cothorn had a member of the church, Sonny Turnage, who had assisted him in an unofficial capacity with church finances and how money was disbursed.

"I remember when he looked at me one day and said, 'We won't be able to pay our Cooperative Program this month.' At the time, the church paid a fixed CP amount, rather than a percentage of undesignated income. The church based its 20% CP offering on the projected budget income instead of actual offerings."

"It was a shock," said Cothorn. "I look at the CP as an obligation, not just an expense."

Being careful to state clearly that God got all the glory for what happened, Cothorn continued, "Before we vote on the budget, we pray about missions and our budget. We don't put our missions line items down with other expenses. We vote together to ask God to show us what His will is. We accept that vote as the will of God for us. So whether it's the Children's Village, the Seaman's Center, associational gifts, or the CP, it all becomes an obligation."



HONORING COMMITMENTS — Richard Cothorn, pastor of Enterprise Church in Clarke County, helped lead the church in being faithful to fulfill its obligations to the Cooperative Program. "Jesus gets the glory for what He's doing in our church," he said. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Cothorn told Turnage, "It's important that we help the church understand that this is an obligation. It's not if we're going to pay, it's when we're going to pay." At the next deacons' meeting, Turnage told the deacons that the church would not be able to pay their Cooperative Program gifts that month.

"We were so disappointed," Cothorn noted. "The church is so strongly mission minded. It wasn't a bad choice we'd made — I just think God was putting us to the test."

After a few moments of quiet, Cothorn told the deacons, "We need to really make sure that when our church can, we need to be committed to pay all our missions obligations."

The deacons understood that this was not optional. "The figure we'd decided upon was like a vow," Cothorn continued. "So we ended up about \$50,000 behind in CP gifts. When we made the last payment on our building note, someone asked, 'Are we going to have a note burning?' I told them no, because we have to pay our CP obligations, and we aren't going to celebrate paying the building off until we pay our CP."

With Cothorn still making clear that God was to get the glory for what happened, the church had a "Celebrate Cooperative Program Day" in April 2008. "We owed about \$10,000 at the time, and we wanted to rally around the Cooperative Program. The next Wednesday — three days later — we paid that last amount, \$10,245."

Many churches would have just "blown off" being behind in Cooperative Program giving.

"We wouldn't do that for two reasons," Cothorn said. "First, we can't treat the lifeline of our missionaries

that lightly. Church staff people wouldn't want that done with their salaries! It's just not right to treat the CP like that. Second, either our process of understanding the will of God together has credibility or it doesn't. If we vote on missions, we are to ask that God's will be done, and how we discover that together is what is important. The process can break down, but if it maintains its integrity, then that is the will of God as we understand it to be. So we obligate ourselves, and not satisfying that is not an option. I would have felt like we were not obeying the will of God."

Currently, the church gives 20% of its undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program, in addition to its other mission gifts.

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**SPECIAL
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
EDITION**

2009 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MISSION BUDGET



GRAND TOTAL = \$34,940,629

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORIES ARE BASED ON CHURCH OFFERING REPORTED ON THE 2007-2008 ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFT

ASSOCIATION CHURCH	CP GFTS
THE HILLSVILLE	6,112.87
UNION BAPTIST	4,893.32
WESTERN BAPTIST	3,227.24
CUMBERLAND	2,917.00
CAPITAL CHURCH	2,408.14
MILL CREEK CHURCH	2,472.00
HOUSTON	2,147.88
WILSON BAPTIST CHURCH	2,087.00
NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	1,926.72
HOUSTON BAPTIST	1,750.00

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY \$2,000 - \$29,999

ASSOCIATION CHURCH	CP GFTS
THE HILLSVILLE	6,112.87
UNION BAPTIST	4,893.32
WESTERN BAPTIST	3,227.24
CUMBERLAND	2,917.00
CAPITAL CHURCH	2,408.14
MILL CREEK CHURCH	2,472.00
HOUSTON	2,147.88
WILSON BAPTIST CHURCH	2,087.00
NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	1,926.72
HOUSTON BAPTIST	1,750.00

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY \$30,000 - \$99,999

ASSOCIATION CHURCH	CP GFTS
THE HILLSVILLE	7,452.14
UNION BAPTIST	7,051.36
CUMBERLAND	6,402.88
WESTERN BAPTIST	6,232.00
NORTH BAPTIST	5,581.32
UNION BAPTIST	5,445.00
WILSON BAPTIST	5,382.48
UNION BAPTIST	5,210.04
WILSON BAPTIST	5,195.41
CUMBERLAND	4,981.66

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY \$100,000 - \$299,999

ASSOCIATION CHURCH	CP GFTS
THE HILLSVILLE	30,175.87
UNION BAPTIST	19,843.00
WESTERN BAPTIST	16,768.28
CUMBERLAND	8,746.00
CAPITAL CHURCH	8,746.00
MILL CREEK CHURCH	8,746.00
HOUSTON	8,746.00
WILSON BAPTIST CHURCH	8,746.00
NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	8,746.00
HOUSTON BAPTIST	8,746.00

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY \$300,000 - \$999,999

ASSOCIATION CHURCH	CP GFTS
THE HILLSVILLE	10,000.00
UNION BAPTIST	10,000.00
CUMBERLAND	10,000.00
WESTERN BAPTIST	10,000.00
NORTH BAPTIST	10,000.00
UNION BAPTIST	10,000.00
WILSON BAPTIST	10,000.00
UNION BAPTIST	10,000.00
WILSON BAPTIST	10,000.00



"The operation of Blue Mountain College is dependent upon the resources provided through the Cooperative Program, making cost of attendance more affordable. The effectiveness of the CP has demonstrated that collective efforts of Baptists make it possible to influence Kingdom's work in positive and enduring ways. Thanks be to God!"

Bettye Rogers Coward



"Katie Caves, the daughter of a Baptist preacher, is fulfilling her dreams of becoming a medical missionary overseas. A Cooperative Program scholarship pays for much of her Mississippi College education. 'Without the Cooperative Program, I'd definitely not be here,' said the 18-year-old freshman from Bogie Chito."

Lee Royce



2009 COOPERATIVE

Cooper Focusing On Chinis

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING

GIFTS ARE ACTUAL RECEIPTS POSTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD FROM OCTOBER 2007 - SEPTEMBER 2008



"As president of William Carey University I am grateful for the monies channeled through the Cooperative Program. This support enables us to provide a challenging academic program in a caring, Christian environment as students grow in scholarship, leadership, and service. Thank you, friends of Carey, for your unfailing support of Christian education."

Tommy King



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

erative Program stian Education

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
DESKO/VASHING DIRT	21,725.48
NEWBY/STANTON/DESKO	21,545.00
CALHAN/DELAWARE HILL	21,182.82
JONES/PINE GROVE	19,545.00
WASHINGTON/HILL ANDALE	14,258.05
GARDEN TRIANGLE/ARTESA	12,114.25
GRINE/ANTHONY	12,055.01
FISHKING/NEW LIBERTY	10,000.75
WAZOO/CONCORD	10,000.00
WINSTON/CADARY	10,000.00

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$150,000 - \$249,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
PIKE/TERRY'S CREEK	32,048.21
POWDERHORN	32,025.20
MID-DELTA/SHINE	31,684.58
LAWRENCE/DESKO	32,917.68
WALSH/HILL/ENON	32,388.44
UNION/ALVARY	31,453.74
LAWRENCE/CHERRY	31,152.37
NEWTON/CHURCH	30,203.87
LEBANON/DAVIS SPRINGS	28,753.00
CHICKASAW/SETH	28,075.28

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$250,000 - \$499,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
NEWTON/HICKORY	72,881.51
PIKE/CENTRAL	72,834.84
CLARKE/ENTERPRISE	65,887.58
COV-RE/DAVIS/FBC COVINS	68,555.65
NEWTON/FBC UNION	65,437.73
LEBANON/MACEDONIA	64,817.22
RANKIN/PELAHATCHIE	61,986.18
WAYNE/PLEASANT GROVE	58,772.53
LAUDERDALE/WESTWOOD	55,857.01
PEARL RIVER/PINE GROVE	57,250.00

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$500,000 - \$999,999

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
MONTGOMERY/FBC WINONA	120,874.46
LAUDERDALE/FBC COLLINGVILLE	127,470.25
RANKIN/SHAR HILL	112,113.00
JONES/FBC ELIZAVILLE	111,198.54
MID-DELTA/FBC CLEVELAND	111,198.85
LAWRENCE/MONTICELLO	108,036.38
SEBASTIAN/FBC RIPLEY	105,463.52
NEWTON/FBC NEWTON	105,195.92
LEE/FBC BALDWIN	104,132.15
MARION/BURGER HILL	99,082.75

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$1,000,000 and above

ASSOCIATION/CHURCH	CP GIFTS
METRO/FBC JACKSON	180,910.55
METRO/BROADWAY	175,180.37
METRO/JACKSON HEIGHTS	163,835.54
DESKO/SHAR HILL	148,801.27
METRO/ACADEMIC HEIGHTS	140,431.75
CLARKE/FY/DE/ADVIEW	134,475.88
WASH F/SHAR HILL/SHAR HILL	132,844.75
LEE/CLARKE	105,111.51
METRO/FBC CLINTON	102,111.51
CLARKE/FBC SHAR HILL	101,455.01

2009 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET

Global Missions/SBC

17.60%	International Mission Board	\$6,114,610
7.98%	North American Mission Board	\$2,768,262
7.76%	Theological Education	\$2,711,393
1.19%	SBC Operations	\$415,793
0.57%	Ethics/Religious Liberty Comm.	\$199,162
35.09%	SUBTOTAL	\$12,229,220

Christian Education

8.96%	Mississippi College	\$3,131,699
6.80%	William Carey University	\$2,374,561
3.24%	Blue Mountain College	\$1,133,530
1.11%	Board of Ministerial Education	\$388,040
0.17%	Education Commission	\$59,443
20.28%	SUBTOTAL	\$7,087,273

State Missions

5.66%	Collegiate Ministry	\$1,983,745
2.81%	Women's Missionary Union	\$982,556
2.01%	Men's Ministry	\$702,426
1.72%	Church Planting	\$600,224
1.70%	Missions Mobilization	\$593,120
1.52%	Mission Strategy	\$533,003
0.83%	Stewardship	\$290,813
16.27%	SUBTOTAL	\$6,685,927

Church Growth Ministries

2.50%	Capital Needs	\$875,000
2.34%	Discipleship/Family Ministry	\$816,183
2.20%	Sunday School	\$767,360
1.53%	Church Music	\$534,453
1.35%	Church Growth	\$472,987
1.16%	Pastor/Leadership Development	\$403,637
0.91%	Evangelism Promotion	\$317,360
0.85%	Church-Minister Relations	\$309,046
12.87%	SUBTOTAL	\$4,496,016

Executive Leadership & Communication

2.37%	Business/Financial Services	\$827,960
1.76%	The Baptist Record	\$613,687
1.43%	Executive Administration	\$500,316
1.26%	Communication Services	\$440,233
1.04%	Computer Information Services	\$363,547
0.41%	Convention Session & Committees	\$141,691
8.27%	SUBTOTAL	\$2,887,433

State Benevolent Institutions

2.82%	Church Retirement & Protection	\$984,000
1.95%	Baptist Children's Village	\$681,072
1.27%	MS Baptist Foundation	\$443,746
1.06%	Christian Action Commission	\$371,363
0.21%	Historical Commission	\$73,949
7.31%	SUBTOTAL	\$2,554,130

GRAND TOTAL

\$34,940,629

Arizona church blessed by CP

QUEEN CREEK, Az. (BP) — Home prices in metro Phoenix are down dramatically, multitudes of homes are in foreclosure, and thousands of people are unemployed.

The Phoenix-area Queen Creek suburb, where San Tan Heights [Southern Baptist] Church is located, is among the hardest-hit communities in the nation.

"A lot of people have called me who are at the brink. A few people have come up to me at church who are at the point of crisis — bankruptcy, losing their home," said Billy Van Camp, founding pastor of the church that started with five people at its first service Easter Sunday in 2004. More than 250 now attend.

While reaching out to help those in financial distress and helping others stave off distress, San Tan Heights [Southern Baptist] Church is seeking to maintain a biblically based, outward-focused, forward-moving perspective.

The congregation continues to give 10% of its offerings to missions through the Cooperative Program, which supports missions and ministries of state Baptist conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The church also bought 12 acres last summer next to the high school where it currently meets, with plans to erect a Sprung — similar to a tent — later this year.

"I have been trying to make sense of all that is going on in this world," Van Camp wrote in his February letter to San Tan Heights members. "It seems we are in a time of unprecedented chaos in our generation... The drastic change in the economy has people living in fear and holding on to money."

Van Camp listed six ways the church could respond to economic uncertainty:

- Live by the Word of God.
- Make prayer your priority.
- Wisdom is your greatest need. James 1:5.
- Relationships matter now, more than ever.
- Worshipping weekly can keep your fire burning.
- Be faithful to God.

"Run to God, honoring Him with at least one-tenth of all you have," Van Camp wrote, reflecting the commitment San Tan Heights has maintained to the Cooperative Program since it started.

"I just think it's a principle," the pastor told Baptist Press. "If I am going to ask my church members to give 10%, it would be sort of blasphemous if the church didn't, and besides... why not give to thousands of missionaries, rather than just one or two? It's just such a great tool for global evangelization."

"I believe a church that is not globally minded will never be locally effective. Matthew 28:19-20. If you look at Jesus' periscope, His contextual emphasis, you

have to start here locally, but the Kingdom is global. We need to be about our neighbors, but we need to be about people on the other side of the world too."

Missions at San Tan Heights includes short-term trips to Ecuador and the Virgin Islands,



Van Camp

and the sending of a volunteer research team to Ghana, Africa.

It starts with meeting people, Van Camp said. At least 35 people have been baptized each year of the church's existence; 47 the first year. "From the beginning, we've prayed hard and we've worked hard at meeting people. We knock on doors; we advertise. My main thing is meeting people where they're at — grocery store, restaurant, parking lot. Put a smile on your face and invite them to church."

Van Camp was a successful building contractor and businessman when he said yes to God's call on his life five years ago.

"I was teaching Sunday School and felt I wasn't doing enough for God," he recounted. "I prayed about it and God said, 'If you knock on the door of a school [to find a meeting place], I'll do the rest.'"

When Van Camp knocked at an elementary school, the principal told him, "Absolutely not. You'll never be able to use this building." A month later, the principal called and offered the building.

"God did what I couldn't," Van Camp said. "First Samuel 14:6. I said, 'It might work or it might not work.' My role is just to be obedient."

Acknowledging that he's a fairly driven person, Van Camp jumped with both feet into the church planter role but about a year later at the dinner table after prayer for the meal, his gregarious teenage daughter screamed at the top of her lungs, "Daddy, I hate you're a pastor."

"That woke me up," Van Camp said. "I think it's the most important thing as a witness and a pastor to care properly for your family. 1 Timothy 5:8. The church is important but our family comes first. We pray together... we encourage each other."

His daughter Paige now is a sophomore at California Baptist University. His son Trey was licensed to preach at age 16 and led 60 teens to make professions of faith in Jesus in the last year. Completing the family: Shea, in the fourth grade at a Christian school where her pastor's wife/mom, Lisa, teaches kindergarten.

"Things are changing; it's the cycle of the Bible," Van Camp reflected. "God supplies us with the information and we just need to let the Holy Spirit show it to us. John 16:13. I believe the church is going to change. Ephesians 3, the mystery of Christ. We need to get ready and be more like what God intended church to be."

The church is to help the hurting as Jesus did; church members need to realize that their mission is to carry on Jesus' work rather than just to sit and soak, Van Camp said.

"When you get on a bus, the church being the bus, you first look for the destination of that bus," Van Camp said. "We want people to realize exactly where our bus is going. Its destination is outward — to reach the lost — and although we accept and love everyone, our hope is that people will find a church that they can stay with."

Van Camp's church planting method is to reach people with God's love, to teach others to do the same and to disciple those who respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

"The Bible is our guide to know and understand what God wants us to do individually, as well as collectively as His church," Van Camp said. "We believe that God must do great things in us before He can do great things through us."

"It's meeting people and teaching people how to be a conversationalist," the pastor continued. "John 6:44. The person is only going to be saved if the Holy Spirit will move them... We have to love people and show them Jesus."

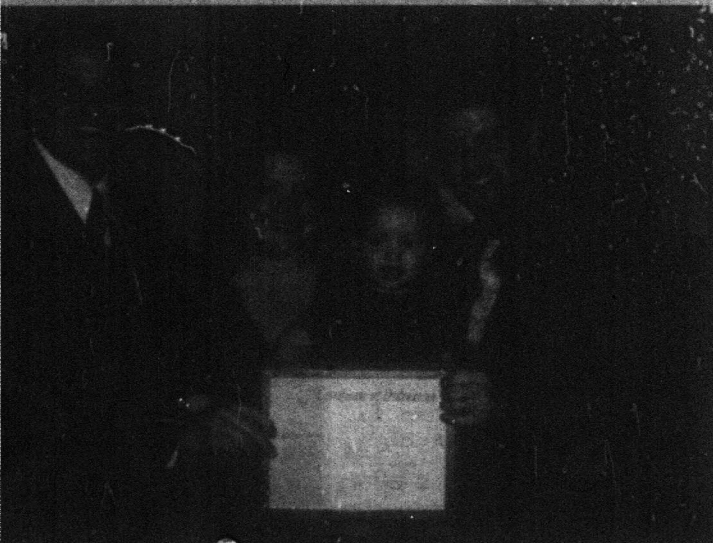
San Tan Heights this year locally is focusing on helping the hurting in Queen Creek. The church is providing financial instruction for people in the community — Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University — and preaching stewardship from the pulpit. In addition, while money isn't always the best answer, a substantial benevolence ministry helps those in crisis.

"With the economy, there's not a lot going on," Van Camp said. "The church worldwide is in a new situation. We have to help people through their finances and through their hurts. The church needs to step up significantly in that. If people are ever, ever, ever going to see Jesus, it's going to be through the church."

JUST FOR THE RECORD



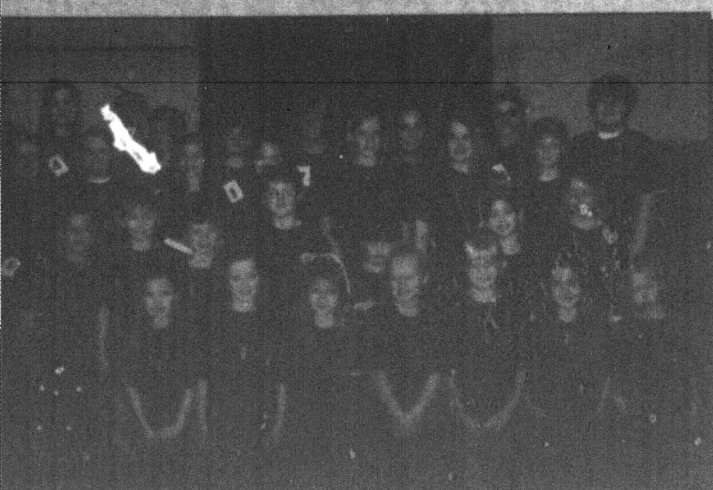
10. First Church, Eupora, children's choir



11. Bell ordination



12. The Parishes



13. First Church, Eupora, Bible drillers

10. The children's choir of First Church, Eupora, presented its Easter musical, The Easter Tree, Apr. 5. Shown are the participants.

11. Scotland Church, Winona, ordained Bryant Bell to the gospel ministry Mar. 8 at the request of Calvary Church, Durant. Shown are Paul Trosper, Kaley Bell, Anne Bell, and Bell.

12. The Women on Mission of Phalti Church, Prentiss, hosted a welcome home reception Mar. 22 for IMB missionaries Steve and Svetlana Parish. The Parishes serve in Tula, Russia.

13. First Church, Eupora, recognizes its Bible drill participants. The church drill was held Mar. 29.

14. Friendship Church, McComb, held a deacon's ordination service Jan. 18. Six deacons were elected, and five were newly ordained. Shown, back row, are Tommy Myers, Tommy Carraway, and Kenneth Willingham; middle row, Michael Carter Brister and James H. Jackson, Jr.; back row, Tim Parker, Laverne Summerlin, David Blalock, James Earl White, and David Millican.

15. New Harmony Church, Philadelphia, ordained Brad Harthcock and Bernard Killen as deacons Mar. 22. Shown are Connie Harthcock, Kevin Vaughn, Killen, and Roma Killen.

16. Lawrence Massengill, First Church, Ripley, recently received his Eagle Scout Award for renovating and developing the Ray Dining Hall Dinner Bell and Garden at Blue Mountain College. Shown are Steve Guyton, Michael & Lisa Massengill, Rex Yancey, Massengill, Bettye Coward, and Sean Akins.

17. Parkway Church, Kosciusko, ordained Bryan Linkins as deacon Feb. 22. Shown are Linkins and pastor Don Cook.

18. The music ministry of First Church, Byram, will present its 2nd annual favorite anthems concert May 31, 6 p.m., featuring the church's sanctuary choir and orchestra.



14. Friendship Church, McComb, deacon ordination



15. New Harmony Church, Philadelphia, deacon ordination



16. Massengill, First Church, Ripley



17. Linkins ordination

COLLEGE NEWS



1. Pickering, Scalia, and King

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia spoke to a large audience of students, faculty, staff, members of the bar and guests at William Carey University Apr. 8. Shown are Charles Pickering, Scalia, and president Tommy King.

2. Newly elected officers of the Blue Mountain College 2009-2010 Student Body Association: (front row) Caleb McLean of Selmer, Tenn., Ekklesian Society representative; Chelsea Funderbuck of Brownsville, Tenn., vice president; Michal Roberson of Arkabutla, president; and Kyle Davis of

Columbia, Tenn., secretary-treasurer; (back row) Kyle Rosas of Millington, Tenn., Berean Society representative; Chasity Privett of Corinth, commuter representative; Rachel Trest of Hernando, Baptist Student Union representative; Ashley Gardner of Tupelo, Eunomian Society representative; Jamie Coleman of Carrollton, Konionia representative; Lynae Palmer of Fulton, Euzelian Society representative; Audrey Wilson, Modenian Society representative; and Michael Bishop of Ackerman, Ministerial Association representative.



2. BMC student leaders

3. Artist Chatham Meade will open her exhibit, Recent Paintings, April 16 through May 6 in the Lucile Parker Art Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University. The opening reception is April 16 from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. The public is invited to the exhibit and the reception admission free. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and by appointment by calling (601) 318-6528.

4. Lambuth University historian Steven Patterson will return to Mississippi College April 16, to deliver a

lecture at his alma mater in Clinton. Patterson is the author of the recently published *The Cult of Imperial Honor in British India*. He will present the R. Glen Eaves Lectureship in British and European History at the Jean Pittman Williams Recital Hall. Beginning at 7 p.m., the program in Aven Hall is free and open to the public.

5. William Carey University has announced a new bachelor of arts degree with an emphasis in painting and drawing as well as an art minor on the Hattiesburg campus. The Tradition campus in Biloxi continues to offer a variety of opportunities to major and minor in

art. For information about the art major contact rdiket@wmcarey.edu or cmeade@wmcarey.edu or contact the admissions office at (601) 318-6103 or admissions@wmcarey.edu.

6. Mississippi College's women's team finished fourth in the 2009 College Table Tennis National Championships with its supporters in Rochester, Minnesota shouting cheers in Chinese, Spanish and English. Finishing fifth: Stanford University of California. The National Collegiate Table Tennis Association's three-day tournament attracted 39 teams including more than 250 players from the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. The MC men's and coed teams finished in 16th-place, one spot ahead of 17th-place Michigan State.

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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Ebenezer Church, Liberty:** Revival, May 3 - 6; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gerald Wicker, Brent Parker, Chris Teasley, and Joe Jackson, speakers; Raymond Steele and Sweet Spirit Singers, music.
2. **Glade Church, Laurel:** Revival, Apr. 19 - 22; Travis Plumlee, speaker; for information, visit www.gladebaptistchurch.com.
3. **Concord Church, Booneville:** Revival, Apr. 19 - 22; 7 p.m. nightly; Blue Mountain College students, speakers.
4. **Mountain Creek Church, Florence:** Revival, Apr. 19 - 22; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Patterson, speaker; Joe Wood, music.
5. **Calvary Church, Cleveland:** One day revival, Apr. 26, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; Bobby Whittington, music.
6. **Branch Church, Morton:** 100th anniversary celebration, May 2, 1 - 4 p.m.; homemade ice cream, cake, old photos, memorabilia, and fellowship.
7. **Bethel Church, Hazlehurst:** Revival, Apr. 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Henderson, speaker; Reggie Bridges, music; women's brunch, Apr. 22; Dorothy Henderson, speaker.
8. **First Church, Rose Hill:** Revival, Apr. 26 - 29; 7 p.m. nightly; Bill Boulton, speaker.
9. **Liberty Church, Jefferson Community, Carroll County:** Revival, Apr. 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Dennis McKay, speaker; Eddie Taylor, Windy T. Brown, music; Gray Tanner, pastor.
10. **Victory Church, Lincoln County:** Revival, Apr. 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by potluck dinner, and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Mark Wicker, speaker; Tom Moak and Chad Douglas, music; Thomas Wicker, pastor.
11. **First Church, Belzoni:** Revival, Apr. 26 - 29; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Robert Ragland, Jimmy McLendon, Billy Burge, and Tony Blanchard, speakers; music by church members and singers from the visiting speakers' churches; George C. Johnson, pastor.



8th Annual GCBA Leadership Conference

May 5, 2009

9:00 AM

FBC Gulfport

Cost: \$20 by April 28 \$30 after April 28

"Understanding Your Ministry Context"
with Tom Carringer

Pre-register by April 28 and receive via e-mail a high level demographic overview of your church for use during the conference.



SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009
WORKSHOPS
8:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

- Fundamentals of Camera Operation
- How Did They Do That?
- How to Get Started on the Web
- Web Site Design Advanced
- Projection Systems Forum
- Creative Production Techniques
- Title Other Media
- Sound Advice Basic
- Sound Advice Advanced
- Lighting for Worship
- Basic Graphic Design for IMAG



DAN MODISSETT

Vice President and
General Manager, WJBT
Charlotte, N.C.

AWARDS BANQUET

Friday, May 1, 6:00 p.m.

Registration deadline is April 17.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. First Church, Louisville, joint service

1. **First Church, Louisville, and Mt. Moriah Church, Louisville,** joined together for a special service Apr. 5 with Fred Luter, pastor, Franklin Ave. Church, New Orleans. Shown are Dennis Jackson, James Headd, Benjamin Pittman, Luter, Brett Gholson, Paul Blanchard, and James McCoy.

2. **First Church, Morton,** hosted the Associational Acteens Day Dec. 6, 2008, with 62 in attendance and six churches represented.

Features included East Central Community College BSU's praise team, the drama team, Creed, from North Morton Church, games, door prizes, and a fashion show.

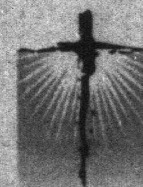
3. **Cleary Church, Florence,** will host Town Hall for Hope - The Economy, Your Money, Real Answers with Dave Ramsey, Apr. 23. Doors open 6 p.m.; event begins at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 845-2020 or email media@clearybaptist.org.

STAFF CHANGES

1. **Emmanuel Church, Biloxi,** has called J. Larry Pittman as pastor. Shown are Pittman and his wife Debbie.
2. **Gracewood Church, Southaven,** has called Len Killough as minister of music. He and his wife allyson work in the DeSoto County school system and are expecting their first child in August.



1. The Pittmans



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OBITUARY

1. **Rev. W.R. (Bill) Murfin** was born in New Orleans, La., July 7, 1927 and passed away March 25, 2009, at age 81 at the Robertsdale Convalescent Home in Robertsdale, Ala. Services were held at First Church, Robertsdale, with burial in the Fairhope, Ala., cemetery. Murfin is survived by his wife Wanda Madere Murfin and six children, two boys, Russell Murfin, Marty Murfin, and four girls, Brenda Murfin Marchman, Martha Murfin Tausin, Nancy Murfin Hall (Twins) and Laurie Murfin Pierce. Murfin held the B.A. Degree from Louisiana College, M. Div. degree from New Orleans Seminary and two Doctor's degrees from Luther Rice Seminary. He pastored churches in Louisiana and Alabama. His last full time position was on the staff at First Church, Kenner, La. where he served as Family Life Counselor for 16 1/2 years. He preached in many revivals and lead in many family life conferences in several states, including Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

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TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor with taste and respect those who are and have been special to our special village.

MARCH 21 - APRIL 12, 2009

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Coach Charles Austin
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Perry
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Mrs. Lois T. Kennedy
Kathryn Berch
Mrs. Lois T. Kennedy
Molly Berch
Mrs. Lois T. Kennedy
Ellen Clark
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Mrs. Earla Holden
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Pete Alford
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Sullivan
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Howard Taylor
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Wesley Ratcliff
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Family
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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Jesus' Followers: True Witnesses or Wishful Thinkers?

Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4, 12-16

By Arthur Story

As people consider making any decision, they are influenced by numerous factors. One aspect of consideration is their current personal view about the particular issue. Another important consideration is the evidence surrounding the issue. A final consideration is the credibility of the people providing the information about the issue.

Two weeks ago we covered the issue of people's personal views when we examined the differing views of Jesus that are held by individuals. Last week we covered the importance of evidence when we investigated the evidence for the truth of the resurrection. This week we will focus our attention on the importance of being a credible source of information about Jesus so that our witness will be received.

Credibility from Our Standards (Acts 1:4-8)

In order to have a credible testimony, each of us needs to live as an authentic Christian witness. People are constantly examining us to see if what we are doing lines up with what we profess to believe. Before they will consider the veracity of our words, they want to know that how we are living is in line with what we say we believe.

An essential aspect of living out of our faith is our willingness to obey Jesus and verbally communicate the Gospel to the lost. As followers of Christ, we recognize that Jesus is the only means for forgiveness of sin and restoration with God (John 3:16, 14:16). Since we understand the narrowness of salvation in Christ (Matthew 7:13-14), each of us should be diligent in proclaiming the



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Gospel to the world. This is not optional. The commission to take the Gospel to those living apart from Christ is a commission for all believers (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8).

Our obedience and diligence in sharing the Gospel is visibly in line with our conviction that Christ is the only means of salvation. When we clearly sharing the Gospel with the lost people that we know, we indicate to them that we truly believe what we profess. In essence, our unrestrained proclamation of the Gospel makes us more credible sources of information about Jesus.

Credibility from the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)

In order to have a credible testimony each of us needs to not only live as an authentic Christian witness but also live a Spirit-filled life. The credibility of our testimony about Jesus is directly related to our intimacy in relationship with Him. Without intimacy in our relationship with Jesus we are unable to be who He has called

us to be and therefore unable to positively influence others with the Gospel message.

To be Christ's witnesses, we need the power and presence of the indwelling Spirit. There are no other requirements. We don't have to be eloquent in speech, possess unequaled knowledge, have mastered all other world-views, possess great debating skills, know every witnessing presentation by heart, have read the most recent books on evangelism, or be a great conversationalists. None of these are bad accomplishments. They're actually good. They're just not essential.

What is essential to the credibility of our witness is living a surrendered life. We need to submit ourselves to Christ and follow Him in order to be used by Him. The depth of our intimacy in our relationship with Jesus has direct bearing on our ability to be used by God to influence others toward Christ. When we rely on the power of the Spirit, we maintain credibility in our witness to others. When we rely on our own abilities and attempt to sway people toward the Gospel

message, we actually damage and undermine the credibility of our testimony for Christ.

Credibility from the Scripture (Acts 2:12-16)

In order to have a credible testimony each of us needs to not only live as an authentic Christian witness and live a Spirit-filled life, we also need to rely on Scripture. As Christians, the Bible is our text for life. We should unapologetically draw from it in dealing with every situation in life.

When issues arise in witnessing for Christ, we should always look to and direct people to Scripture. Peter did this in our text when he directed those who sneered and spoke against the disciples (Acts 2:13) back to Scripture (Acts 2:16). We should do the same. We should always take people to Scripture in response to their concerns.

So, how are you doing in your witness? Are you credible in your standards? Are your credible in your dependence on the Spirit? Are you credible in your reliance on Scripture?

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

The Lord is at Work

Isaiah 45:1-7, 9-13

By Beth S. Bowman

"Pick me! Pick me! Pick me!" I hollered so loudly that the game show host could not ignore my insistent demands. He picked me. I ran to the front and had my 15 seconds of fame during the reenactment of a late night show at Universal Studios. It was every college student's dream come true. Although I was quite thrilled at being the "chosen one," I am quite certain the other one thousand possible contestants around me did not agree with the host's choice. God has a way of choosing the right people at the right time for His purposes. Although we, as believers, might not always understand His choice, we can trust His heart and His plans. Today's lesson focuses on how God used Cyrus, a pagan king to accomplish His will for the Israelites.

Acknowledge the Lord's Purposes (Isaiah 45:1-2)

In the first verse, God calls Cyrus His "anointed one." Usually the Old Testament reserved the idea of "anointed" for leader, priests, kings, and prophets and even Isaiah himself. Anointing in these verses refer to the Lord's commissioning for a special task. God made the choice to use this pagan ruler for the purpose of releasing His people from exile. Keep in mind that Isaiah 40-66 are eighth century BC prophecies that look ahead to the Babylonian exile. From the prophet's perspective these prophecies relate to future events. Verse 2 tells us that the Lord went before Cyrus, giving him entrance into cities that he would conquer. Although we do not have the Israelite reactions to God's use of Cyrus, I can imagine that there were many Israelite



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leaders who were upset at not being the anointed one that God chose to use.

Awake to the Lord's Presence (Isaiah 45:3-5)

God was unknown to Cyrus but yet God called him by name. It was because of God's hand in the life of Cyrus that he prospered, not because of anything that Cyrus had done or he deserved. Isaiah 49:1 confirms the Lord's intentional acknowledgement of everyone, "Listen to Me, O islands, And pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me." Regardless of how we treat or acknowledge the Lord in our lives, He knows our name and can use anyone He deems.

Applaud the Lord's Power (Isaiah 45:6-7)

There is no God like Jehovah! I love that part of the song we sang in worship a couple of weeks ago. There is

power in that statement. God confirms this power in verse 6: "I am the Lord and there is no other." God was making himself abundantly clear to Cyrus. God stepped outside of the confines of Israel to pick another world power to accomplish His purposes. Why? Part of the reason must be to show the pagan world that there is no other God like Him. He is not a God to manipulate or judge. He is not one to be worshipped with emotions or convenience. He is the One True God.

Accept the Lord's Sovereignty (Isaiah 45:9-13)

Matthew Henry summed it up by saying, "Men are but earthen pots; they are broken potsherds, and are very much made so by mutual contentions. To contend with Him is as senseless as for clay to find fault with the potter. Let us turn God's promises into prayers, beseeching him that salvation may abound among us, and let us rest assured that the Judge of all the earth will do right." Who are we to argue with the one

true God? We cannot. We have to trust Him.

Many of you remember the popular group activity, "Trust Fall." For those of you who don't, it was an activity designed to build confidence in others. Members of the group would line up facing each other next to a six-foot table with their hands outstretched. One member of the group would stand on the table, with his back to the others and at a predetermined signal, he would fall backwards, arms folded across his chest and fall into the arms of the team to be caught. Although I participated many times and was never dropped, each time would bring the same fears, "Can I trust them to take care of me?" We have the same question for our consistent, faithful, true Father in Heaven, "Can I trust You to take care of me?" And the answer is Yes! every time. He is the Lord and there is no other.

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 9 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Baptists putting GPS to work in Philly neighborhood

PHILADELPHIA (BP) — The rustle of plastic door hanger bags was a telltale sound of a windy Philadelphia day and evidence that members of Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church visited neighbors along Chelton Avenue with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

"They have it in their hands," said Christian Cesar, pastor of the church. "If they have it in their hands, they are closer to having it in their hearts. That's why we're here."

As part of God's Plan for Sharing (GPS), the new Southern Baptist evangelism initiative, a number of Philadelphia-area churches hosted evangelistic outreach efforts April 4 as a means of reaching their communities and exhibiting the effectiveness of certain outreach media on their communities.

The Philadelphia initiative was one of five state roll-outs of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) GPS evangelistic strategy, which is now gathering steam after being introduced at last year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis by NAMB President Geoff Hammond.

In addition to Philadelphia, GPS outreach opportunities are being rolled out in Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, and

California, with the national launch slated for 2010.

"Our church recently did a church development survey, and our profile showed that we needed to be more intentional about evangelism," said Brian King, who pastors Ezekiel Church and serves as moderator for the Baptist Resource Network of Philadelphia. More than 80 members from the African American church participated.

"GPS is piggybacking perfectly with what our church is trying to do," King said. "It has actually invigorated the church. Many of them asked if we could go out next Saturday."

Throughout Philadelphia more than a dozen churches, from Anglo contemporary and African American to Russian, Haitian, and Vietnamese congregations, had readied themselves for the April 4 outreach.

Using FindItHere.com materials printed by NAMB, alongside literature in other languages inviting people to church on Easter, church members went door-to-door hanging bags and striking up conversations.

Paired with a citywide ad campaign that included more than 70 bus ads, mobile truck signs, radio commercials, and television spots sending people to FindItHere.com and a Gospel presentation, the outreach is bearing fruit and church leaders



KNOCKING ON DOORS — Christian Cesar, pastor of Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa., distributes outreach materials and an invitation to visit FindItHere.com to a resident near the church. The effort was part of Southern Baptists' God's Plan for Sharing evangelistic initiative to launch in 2010. (BP photo)

are noticing a response. Two women in south Philly accepted Christ and filled out information at NAMB's Evangelism Response Center website. Two additional people saw a mobile

ad, walked into New Beginnings Church in Philadelphia, and accepted Christ.

"Our churches have, in the last several years, made the weeks leading up to Easter a great

opportunity to share the Gospel and invite people to church for special Easter celebrations," said Bob Hylton, director of missions for the Baptist Resource Network of Philadelphia.

Former SBC president, African-American Baptist leader die

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — H. Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Church, Nashville, and president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1966-68, died at his home April 10. He was 86.

Paschall served as pastor of First Church, Nashville, from 1956 until his retirement in 1983. Frank Lewis, current pastor at First Church, reflected on Paschall's contributions to Southern Baptist life, both in the local church and at the state and national levels.

"He was a preacher's preacher representing an era of pulpit ministry that was not dependent on the use of PowerPoint to hold the heart and imagination of the worshiper," Lewis said. "As an orator, he was second to none. With a flair for the dramatic, Dr. Paschall commanded the sanctuary quoting Scripture long ago hidden in his heart with effectiveness and poignancy."

"He was overwhelmed with the conviction that the Gospel should be shared with holy urgency every time he stepped into the pulpit."

Lewis also described Paschall as a peacemaker. "He gave significant leadership to the issues of racial reconciliation during the tumultuous times associated with the civil rights movement. With a steady hand he guided First Baptist and the entire Southern Baptist Convention to understand that racial prejudice was incompatible with Christianity."

Paschall was born in Hazel, Ky., but was reared in Puryear, Tn. He graduated from Union University in Jackson, Tn., and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he earned his Ph.D.

He also received honorary doctorates from Union and Nashville's Belmont University.

In addition to serving as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Paschall served as a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, the SBC Executive Committee, and the SBC's Committee on Boards.

Paschall was active in the Kentucky Baptist Convention

and was a member of its Executive Board while serving as pastor at Hazel Church and First Church in Bowling Green, Ky., before returning to Tennessee in 1956.

He was president of the Nashville Baptist Association Pastors Conference and served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He was a former trustee of Baptist Hospital and Belmont University when both entities were part of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

His wife Olga died in 1994. He is survived by two daughters: Sandra Kay Paschall of Nashville and Palma Paschall Freeman of Dallas.

Southern Baptist African American pioneer Sid Smith died during his sleep April 8 at his home in Jacksonville, Fla. He suffered from ongoing heart problems and congestive heart failure.

The 65-year-old Smith was the first director of the Florida Baptist Convention's African American ministries division from May 1994 until his retirement Oct. 31, 2005. In this role, he served at the convention's highest administrative and decision-making level in directing a unique cultural outreach among state Baptist conventions.

During his tenure, Smith gave leadership to an aggressive program of starting more than 400 predominantly African American congregations as well as instituting a program department of church development to assist pastoral and lay leadership in African American churches.

"Sid was a scholarly man with a great grasp of the local church," said John Sullivan,

executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, who selected Smith to fill the newly created position in 1994. "He was a pioneer in many ways in Baptist life."

Smith served more than 40 years in Southern Baptist denominational roles, longer than any other African American leader. He worked in California, Tennessee, and Florida but his influence permeates multicultural strategies now in place at the Southern Baptist Convention's North

American Mission Board and LifeWay Christian Resources.

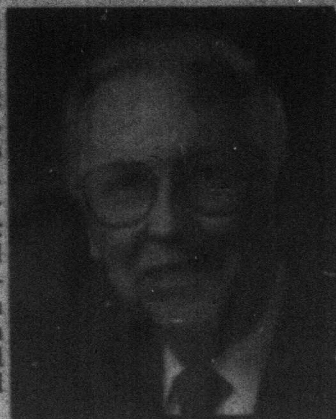
Smith worked behind the scenes in the establishment of the National African American Fellowship in 1992.

He was the founder of the Black Southern Baptist Denominational Servants Network in 1997, an organization that provides mentoring and encouragement to African American staff members at Baptist entities.

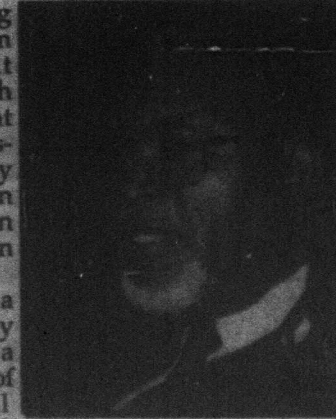
A author of books and articles on the African American experience within Southern Baptist life, Smith lectured at every Southern Baptist seminary.

A native of Texas, Smith graduated from the University of Corpus Christi with a B.A. and earned the master of religious education degree from Golden Gate Theological in Mill Valley, Ca., in 1968 and the doctor of philosophy degree from California Graduate School of Theology in Glendale in 1973.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Arnette E. Smith of Jacksonville and a son Sid Smith III who lives in California.



Paschall



Smith